

EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS BRIEF SHEET

QUESTION 1: WHAT IS EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: Early return of dependents provides transportation for COMMAND SPONSORED dependents from overseas areas to CONUS in advance of PCS transfer, and must be considered to be IN THE BEST INTEREST of the government. Early return of dependents also includes transportation of household goods.

QUESTION 2: IS EVERYONE STATIONED OVERSEAS ENTITLED TO EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: No! To be entitled to early return of dependents, you must show that a valid need to return your dependents exists; the problem or situation occurred after arrival at the overseas Permanent Duty Station (PDS) and local resources (on and off base) cannot solve the problem. If your situation does not meet these criteria, the request will be denied. Approval for the early return of dependents must be applied judiciously; early return will be a last resort.

QUESTION 3: HOW DO I APPLY FOR EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: The Passenger Transportation Manual, OPNAVINST 4650.15 (series), provides a letter format for you to use when applying for early return of dependents.

QUESTION 4: DO I HAVE TO RETURN ALL OF MY DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: You may return one or all of your dependents. However, you must show that a valid need to return those dependents exists (i.e. dependent child gets in trouble with military and/or civilian authorities, and dependent spouse must also return to care for the child).

QUESTION 5: CAN I SHIP MY DEPENDENTS TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY?

ANSWER: If your dependents are foreign nationals, you may send them to a place in the country of their origin.

QUESTION 6: UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN I RETURN MY DEPENDENTS EARLY?

ANSWER: The circumstances are very explicit and must be followed closely. As described below, all resources must be used to correct the situation which warrants early return of dependents. If after all resources are used this situation still exists, dependents will be returned early. Such circumstances are:

- Non-availability of medical treatment at PDS or in the Pacific theater.
- Death, serious illness, or incapacitation of a dependent normally caring for minor dependents.
- Lack of adequate educational facilities or housing; used only when inadequacy of such facilities was caused by conditions beyond your control and knowledge of those conditions arose after your dependents began travel to your PDS.
- When determined the best interest of you or your dependents and the government will be served by the transportation of one or more dependents for compelling personal reasons such as financial difficulties, marital difficulties, unforeseen family problems, death or serious illness of close relatives, or for reasons of a humanitarian or compassionate nature, and in other situations which HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON YOUR PERFORMANCE OF DUTY. This item may not be used to authorize the transportation of students to CONUS for the purpose of attending school.
- When your dependent receives orders from the Selective Service Board to report to a location in the U.S. for induction into the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Lack of acceptable employment opportunities for children aged 18 years of age or older. To meet this condition, a determination must be made by the commanding officer that:

(1) Because of lack of employment opportunity at the PDS and the resulting idleness, the child is likely to become involved in situations creating embarrassment to the U.S. which places additional administrative burdens on the commanding officer or has adverse effects on your performance of duty; and,

(2) Such advance return is in the best interest of you or your dependents and the U.S.

QUESTION 7: WHAT IS MY SUBSEQUENT ENTITLEMENT WHEN I TRANSFER FROM MY PRESENT PDS?

ANSWER: If your dependents are otherwise entitled to transportation on subsequent PCS orders and have not returned back to your PDS, they will be authorized transportation from the place to which they were transported under the early return of dependents orders to the destination authorized in the reassignment orders.

QUESTION 8: WHAT IS MY ENTITLEMENT IF I DECIDE TO BRING MY DEPENDENTS BACK TO MY PRESENT PDS?

ANSWER: You must bring your dependents back at PERSONAL EXPENSE. Your dependents may be command sponsored if you have 24 months remaining in your overseas tour after approval of command sponsorship, provided you have not been notified through normal channels that a PCS transfer is forthcoming. If your dependents are command sponsored, you are entitled to station allowances at the WITH DEPENDENTS rate, and travel and transportation allowances at government expense from the PDS on subsequent PCS.

QUESTION 9: WHO CAN APPROVE MY REQUEST FOR EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: Authority cannot be delegated below the level of your Installation Commander or Area Coordinator if in the grade of O-6 or higher, or the Commanding Officer of the ship, embarked mobile unit, or afloat staff to which you are assigned.

QUESTION 10: UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN I ASK FOR REIMBURSEMENT AFTER SENDING MY DEPENDENTS BACK EARLY AT PERSONAL EXPENSE?

ANSWER: Reimbursements after the fact can only be funded for the "CIRCUMSTANCES" stated on the preceding page if your dependents were COMMAND SPONSORED.

QUESTION 11: HOW LONG BEFORE MY PRD MUST I APPLY FOR EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: You may apply for early return of dependents anytime before you receive notification of a forthcoming PCS transfer and you are not within six months of your PRD. If authority for early return of dependents is granted within six months of PRD and no reassignment notification has been received, authority for early return of dependents must be obtained from PERS-133. In these cases, attempts will be made to issue PCS orders to preclude the need for exercising the early return entitlement.

QUESTION 12: FOR WHAT REASONS WOULD I NOT BE AUTHORIZED EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS?

ANSWER: You will not be authorized early return of dependents if the reason for the request is for:

- Personal convenience (e.g. to spend time with the family in the U.S., to travel to a particular area in advance of PCS orders, to ship household goods in excess of authorized allowance, etc.)

- Student dependents to attend school under JFTR U5240D2g, especially if the entitlement to the annual roundtrip transportation for student travel has been used.

- Lack of adequate educational facilities under JFTR U5240D2c, unless that situation occurred after the arrival of dependents in the overseas area.

QUESTION 13: WILL I BE AUTHORIZED TEMPORARY LODGING ALLOWANCE (TLA) ON BEHALF OF MY DEPENDENTS WHO ARE BEING RETURNED EARLY?

ANSWER: No. There is no TLA entitlement for early return of dependents. A dislocation allowance is payable after your dependents arrive at their designated place. You must file a travel claim to receive this allowance.